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PCT CHAPTER II

**Re: Agent's File Reference A3-069 PCT
International Patent Application No. PCT/US03/30528
International Filing Date: 26 September 2003
Priority date: 03 October 2002
MEMORY CARD CONNECTOR WITH MEANS FOR
PREVENTING ERRONEOUS CARD INSERTION**

ARTICLE 34 RESPONSE TO THE WRITTEN OPINION ISSUED UNDER RULE 66

Dear Sirs:

This communication is in response to the Written Opinion issued under PCT Rule 66 and mailed on 07 July 2004. This response, along with claim replacement sheets 11 and 12 are being transmitted by facsimile and a confirmation copy of this letter are being sent to the EPO by Express Mail.

In the Written Opinion, the Examiner indicated that "[t]he subject matter of claim 1 is not new (Article 33 (2) PCT)". Applicant has amended independent claim 1, as attached, and as appended to his Amendments under Article 19 filed May 10, 2004, to further distinguish his invention from the disclosure of the cited references and from reference D1 in particular.

Independent claim 1 now describes a memory card connector comprising:

an insulating housing (16) defining a front receptacle area (24) communicating with an interior cavity (22) for receiving a memory card (24);
a plurality of terminals (20) mounted on the housing in a side-by-side array transversely across a rear (44) of the housing, the terminals having contact portions (20b) at a rear of the cavity for engaging contacts (38) on a top side (32) of the memory card;

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a sheet metal shell (18) covering at least a portion of the insulating housing and including a cover plate (66) overlying at least a portion of said cavity, the memory card connector characterized by the sheet metal shell having a wrong insertion-proof projection (78) formed out of said cover plate (66) and *extending downwardly into the cavity (22) and into a slot (40) in the top of the memory card* when the card is properly inserted into the cavity, the projection (78) preventing an erroneously inserted memory card from engaging the contact portions (20b) of the terminals (20), and *the projection being bent downwardly and back upwardly into an elbow-shaped cross-sectional configuration to prevent scarring or cracking of the memory card (24) when erroneously inserted into the cavity.*

Figures 1 and 7 of applicants' drawings show the claimed feature(s) clearly, i.e. the elbow-shaped cross-sectional configuration of the insertion-proof projection (78) which extends downwardly and back upwardly to prevent damage to the memory card. Neither the drawings nor the description of reference D1 indicate *any* specific configuration of the stopper tab 94 (contrary to the examiner's statement that it is "L-shaped") or that the projection extends into a slot in the top of the memory card. Applicants invite the examiner to identify where such details are disclosed in the cited reference.

Accordingly, it is applicant's opinion that the rejection of the claims in view of reference D1 has been overcome by the amendment to independent claim 1. In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the relevancy of the cited reference D1 and reissue a favorable detailed examination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey E. Caldwell", written over the typed name.

Stacey E. Caldwell
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CLAIMS

1. A memory card connector (14), comprising:
2 an insulating housing (16) defining a front receptacle area (24) communicating with
an interior cavity (22) for receiving a memory card (24);
4 a plurality of terminals (20) mounted on the housing in a side-by-side array
transversely across a rear (44) of the housing, the terminals having contact portions (20b) at a rear
6 of the cavity for engaging contacts (38) on a top side (32) of the memory card;
a sheet metal shell (18) covering at least a portion of the insulating housing and
8 including a cover plate (66) overlying at least a portion of said cavity, the memory card connector
characterized by the sheet metal shell having a wrong insertion-proof projection (78) formed out
10 of said cover plate (66) and extending downwardly into the cavity (22) and into a slot (40) in the
top of the memory card when the card is properly inserted into the cavity, the projection (78)
12 preventing an erroneously inserted memory card from engaging the contact portions (20b) of the
terminals (20), and the projection being bent downwardly and back upwardly into an elbow-
14 shaped cross-sectional configuration to prevent scarring or cracking of the memory card (24)
when erroneously inserted into the cavity.

2. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof
2 projection (78) is bent into a generally U-shaped configuration.

3. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof
2 projection (78) is bent into a generally L-shaped configuration.

4. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof
2 projection (78) is bent into a generally J-shaped configuration.

5. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said wrong insertion-proof
2 projection (78) is bent into a generally V-shaped configuration.

2 6. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said sheet metal shell (18) includes a pair of depending opposite side walls (68,70) integral with opposite longitudinal edges of said cover plate (66).

2 7. The memory card connector of claim 6 wherein said side walls (68,70) include mounting tabs (72) bent outwardly at bottom edges of the walls for mounting the connector on a circuit board.